



**State of Connecticut**  
**Latino and Puerto Rican**  
**Affairs Commission**

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*Isaías T. Díaz, Esq.*  
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*Lourdes E. Montalvo*  
*Dr. Agnes Quiñones*  
*Norma Rodríguez-Reyes*  
*Danny Torres*  
*Elena Trueworthy, M.S.*

**Acting Executive Director**  
*Werner Oyanadel*

**Special Projects Director/  
Grants Writer**  
*Lucia Goicoechea-Hernández*

**Senior Legislative Secretary**  
*Clarisa Cardone*

**MINUTES**  
**LPRAC Regular Commission Meeting**  
**June 19, 2013**  
**Legislative Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut**  
**5:30 p.m.**

Commissioners Present:	Isaías T. Díaz, Esq., Ramón L. Arroyo, Francisco R. Borres, Yolanda Castillo, Honorable Migdalia Castro, Roberto Fernández, Lourdes Montalvo, Norma Rodríguez-Reyes, Danny Torres and Elena Trueworthy, M.S.
Commissioner absent:	Richard A. Cruz, Dr. Sonia Mañjon and Dr. Eugene Salorio
Staff:	Werner Oyanadel, Acting Executive Director and Clarisa Cardone, Sr. Legislative Secretary

**Tape 1 A**

**Chairman Díaz, Esq.** called the meeting to order and asked **Secretary Commissioner Castillo** to do roll call. Quorum was established.

**Public Participation:** Jill Jenkins, Community Activist on Civil Rights Issues testified before our commission about her point of view in regards to a current research that is being performed by Dr. Marlon James from Loyola University regarding racial and ethnic achievement gap issues in the City of Windsor. Mrs. Jenkins is in favor of this research unfortunately the town is divided about this project and according Mrs. Jenkins it may decide to cancel it in the upcoming months. Mrs. Jenkins asked LPRAC to support this issue. They need LPRAC's help in making meaningful policies that will keep this from happening again. She brought a press conference kit with background information and submitted it for the record.

**Commissioner Torres** came in at 5:42 p.m.

**Commissioner Castro** suggested that Mrs. Jenkins approach the Black & Hispanic Caucus for additional help.

**Commissioner Rodríguez-Reyes** said her sister lives in Windsor and said she will be able to help her outreach to the community.

**Commissioner Fernandez** informed Mrs. Jenkins that LPRAC has been studying the issue of racial and ethnic education achievement gap from a range of perspectives for several years and it is a priority for use since our state has the worst achievement gaps in the nation.

Public Participation closed at 6:00 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES - APRIL AND MAY 2013**

1. **Motion made to approve the minutes of April 17, 2013 by Commissioner Fernández and seconded by Commissioner Castro. Motion carried without discussion as follows:**

**6 Yeas:** Commissioners Borres, Castillo, Castro, Fernández, Rodríguez-Reyes and Torres

**2 Abstention:** Commissioner Arroyo and Trueworthy

**3 Absent:** Commissioners Cruz, Mañjon and Salorio

**Resolved:** Minutes from the meeting on April 17, 2013 approved without modification.

2. **Motion made to approve the minutes of May 15, 2013 by Commissioner Fernández and seconded by Commissioners Borres. Motion withdrawn as follows:**

**Discussion:**

**Commissioner Arroyo** mentioned that on May 15, 2013 at Willimantic's meeting the minutes do not reflect how the votes went about and that the LPRAC Chairperson had to break the tie and the minutes should be corrected. It should reflect the names and how the votes were cast.

**Chairman Díaz, Esq.** stated that he will ask the staff to reflect votes as recommended by Commissioner Arroyo and recommended that the minutes be tabled for next month so that the corrections can be added to the minutes accordingly.

Commissioner Fernández withdrew his motion as well Commissioners Borres and Castillo.

**Motion to postpone temporarily the approval of the minutes of LPRAC for the Commission Meeting of May 15 by Commissioner Fernández and seconded by Commissioner Borres. Motion carried unanimously as follows.**

**Resolved: Approval of minutes from the meeting of May 15, 2013 postponed temporarily for one month.**

#### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

**Chairman Díaz, Esq.** reported on the following information:

1. He received a call from Commissioner Dr. Mañjon stating that she is working at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio and as a result she is stepping down from the LPRAC Board of Commissioners. She wishes everyone well;
2. Our agency's biennial budget was approved and the agency will be operational for the next two years. There were some mandated reductions in effect but LPRAC will be functional with funds for a research report and moneys to hire an Executive Director;
3. We were three for three this year with our agency's 2013 Legislative Agenda;
4. He received a phone call from Attorney Patricia Cruz Fergoso, she is Portuguese and a good friend of his, and she works at a law firm in Danbury. She would like us to hold our meeting in Danbury and she has connections with some of the Hispanic leaders in that area of the State;
5. There was an issue and it was in the paper with regard to the timeline of the implementation of the driver's license for undocumented immigrants. The general public asked "why is the wait so long" and to avoid a public outcry, I and Acting Executive Director Oyanadel called Deputy Commissioner Victor Díaz of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). He explained that the computer system at DMV is being rehailed and they cannot stop half way through their implementation, which is the reason of the long delay for implementation. They have to finish this first and then they can implement the new licenses. It's an infrastructure problem, not a legislative problem. He does not think it is necessary for LPRAC to take a position on this;
6. Commissioner Montalvo brought to his attention a potentially discriminatory issue that's taking place in Windham with regards to the way school suspensions are being handed out. He's going to address in New Business that as a commission, they make a Freedom of Information Act request of the Windham School Board asking them for data with regards to suspensions. If we find out that the way that suspensions are handed out there's some sort of disparate application, then we can move forward;
7. He would like LPRAC to organize an agency retreat to define our legislative priorities for 2014; &
8. He has been approached by individuals regarding the manner in which State benefits are applied to Single individuals vs. Married couples. He has come across cross people who are afraid to get married for fear of losing their insurance and would like LPRAC to discuss this issue further.

#### **Tape 1 B**

**Chairman Díaz, Esq.** continued saying that he would like to bring up in New Business to perhaps bring up a motion that that could be an issue that Priorities and Legislation can investigate.

9. Another project is having a Legislative Reception, inviting all the major players that assisted in getting all the legislation got passed this year, whether it is elected officials, community members and others.
10. One more thing, next year is LPRAC's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and we were debating celebrating 20 or 25 years but he mentioned 20 because who knows if we are still going to be here.

**Motion made to accept Chairperson's report by Commissioners Castro and Trueworthy and seconded by Commissioner Borres. Motion carries as follows:**

**9 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Borres, Castillo, Castro, Fernández, Montalvo, Rodríguez-Reyes, Torres and Trueworthy**

**3 Absent: Commissioners Cruz, Mañjon and Salorio**

#### **ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Mr. Oyanadel** said that in the packets there are two written reports, one for 5/15/13 which not approved because of time limitations in our event in Willimantic and the one for 6/19/13 which he reported as follows:

- Our agency's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Tribute to Hispanic Veterans Reception at the State Capitol was a total success as measured by the caliber of attendees, media, and general public. I commend the Special Projects Committee, LPRAC Commissioner Danny Torres – Committee Chair, and our staff Lucia Goicoechea-Hernandez, and Clarisa Cardone for working diligently and professionally making sure that this event shines the way that it did. Congratulations!
- At the invitation of the Connecticut Institute for Community Development Puerto Rican Parade, Inc. – Hartford Chapter I am proud to say that I was selected as one 4 "Padrinos" of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Greater Hartford Puerto Rican Parade in the City of Hartford that took place on Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> of this year. This year's theme was entitled "Tradicion Boricua, Evolucion Latina," which recognized the fascinating evolution of our Latino culture as a whole. The parade was followed by the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival del Coqui at Bushnell Park Pavilion and several other official events across the City of Hartford last month that I

was required to attend in preparation of this well recognized event in Connecticut (including two Puerto Rican Flag Raising Ceremonies at Hartford City Hall and the State Capitol just to mention a few)

- At the invitation of the Office of U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal I attended a luncheon, press conference, and a formal meeting at the State Capitol and the US Small Business Administration Office in Hartford to discuss two major issues: (1) a proposal for 'Borinqueneer' Recognition which requests that Congress award the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division the Congressional Gold Medal. According to information released in the media by CT Latino News the Borinqueneers, "During the Korean War, the peak of the division's achievements, the Borinqueneers participated in nine major campaigns, earned two Presidential Unit Citations, a Meritorious Unit Commendation and two Republic of Korea Unit Citations. In the entire history of the highly decorated unit, members have earned ten distinguished service crosses, 258 Silver Stars, 628 Bronze Stars and more than 2,700 Purple Hearts;" (2) A follow up meeting to a discussion that took place last year with bank CEOs and Latino Business Owners about increasing access to resources that can help reignite investments and create incentives that help our Latino entrepreneurs create jobs during the economic recovery from our last recession;
- I continue attending the official Racial Profiling Advisory Board Meeting on behalf of LPRAC. This, as you may remember, was created to help oversee the design, evaluation, and management of the racial profiling study mandated by P.A. 12-74 "An Act Concerning Traffic Stop Information." P.A. 12-74 requires (1) the Office of Policy and Management in consultation with the Racial Profiling Advisory Board, within available resources, to develop and implement methods for collecting traffic stop information, (2) police officers to record traffic stop information using the new method and any forms developed and implemented as part of it and give a copy to each motor vehicle operator stopped, starting July 1, 2013 and (3) police departments retain and submit data annually to OPM for analysis;
- At the request of the Secretary of the State of Connecticut I attended a meeting to discuss civic engagement issues in Connecticut relating to Latino participation. This meeting was very useful, as the discussion involved a comprehensive dialogue about political engagement, voter turnout, and election registration issues and ways to improve historically low participation within our community;
- **Priorities and Legislation Committee Update:** The Latino & Puerto Rican Affairs Commission ended the legislative year with 100% victories during the legislative session of 2013. Issues important to the community including: access to driver's licenses for Hispanic immigrants; the development of integrated community schools to promote quality education, mental health, nutrition and other services designed to promote students who thrive socially and academically; and the creation of a study that will examine our idea of creating a new state program of teaching individuals who want to work in the field of barbershops. LPRAC also managed to support the historical judicial nomination of Judge Carmen Espinosa to the Superior Court of Connecticut; and was able to effectively defend the State resources directed to Hispanic agencies in Connecticut who had been eliminated in the legislative proposals of this year – significant victories that occurred during a time in which the Commission was considered for elimination. Finally, LPRAC obtained a great victory that will help reduce the disproportionate miss-classification of Hispanic students who are being wrongly categorized in need of "special education."
- **RBA Committee Update:** The RBA Committee met last week over the phone to discuss the potential of conducting a "population accountability" report in RBA format similarly to the Latino Socio-Economic Status report that we conduct every two years. The cost for our agency to conduct a comprehensive state-wide report such as this one would be similar to the cost of our Socio-Economic studies which cost our agency around twenty thousand dollars. If LPRAC agrees to start this process I will be contacting the Office of Legislative Management to find out if this research can be accommodated within current funds without any issues to any other ongoing expenses already budgeted for our upcoming fiscal year budget;
- **Public Information Committee Update:** The Committee last month was in charge of producing a press release in Spanish about our legislative victories for the past legislative session. The Committee is preparing the upcoming production of our quarterly newsletter which is in production mode. The Committee will be looking at translating this document for the upcoming fiscal year pending the availability of funds; &
- **LPRAC Budget:** Public Act No. 13-184 (i.e., House Bill No. 6704) includes our agency's budget for the next biennium as follows: \$470,761 for FY 14 and \$450,034 for FY 15. This budget provides funding to reflect wage-related adjustments and other compensatory-related adjustments under Personal Services; it also contains inflationary increases (\$709 in FY 14 and \$1,734 in FY 15) under our Other Expenses line item; provides funding of \$6,351 in FY 14 and \$2,457 in FY 15 to reflect the implementation of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) in the budget; provide funding for one Principle Analyst position; and the remaining \$37,864 in FY 14 and \$1,003 in FY 15 in the Other Expenses account is for consulting services (Research);

**Motion made to accept Acting Executive Director's report by Commissioner Rodríguez-Reyes and seconded by Commissioner Castro. Motion carries as follows:**

**9 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Borres, Castillo, Castro, Fernández, Montalvo, Rodríguez-Reyes, Torres and Trueworthy**

**3 Absent: Commissioners Cruz, Mañjon and Salorio**

#### **PUBLIC INFORMATION/TALENT BANK COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Commissioner Rodríguez-Reyes Chairperson for this committee** reported on the following:

1. The committee last month was in charge of producing a Press Release in Spanish about our legislative victory for the past legislative session. If you look in your package under Section D you will see it with

- some pictures;
2. LPRAC press releases will now include PSA's that are 60 seconds and 30 seconds spots for the radio; &
  3. At the present time, they are preparing the upcoming quarterly newsletter. We expect to have funding to have it translated and be able to send it out in the mail and put it on our website. We are going to be working even more on developing more relationships with the Latino Social Service Agencies so we can have a link from our website to theirs to disseminate the information even more. She would like to inform all commissioners that if you have anything that you would like them to feature in the upcoming newsletter to let the staff know.

**Motion made to accept the Public Information/Talent Bank Committee Report made by Commissioner Montalvo and seconded by Commissioner Castro. Motion carries as follows:**

**9 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Borres, Castillo, Castro, Fernández, Montalvo, Rodríguez-Reyes, Torres and Trueworthy**

**3 Absent: Commissioners Cruz, Mañjon and Salorio**

#### **PRIORITIES & LEGISLATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

As Commissioner Cruz, Chair for this committee is not present, report was tabled.

#### **SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Commissioner Torres, Chair for this committee reported the following:

1. As of Friday, 6-14-13 only 4 scholarship applications have been received, one qualifying for the Bank of America scholarship. As of today, we have 7.
2. The Lifetime Achievement Award recipients were named last month and they were Ruth Espinosa, Publisher of Identidad Latina, Ed Rodríguez, owner of Penmar Industries and recent former member LPRAC of the board. We also picked a theme which was Hispanic Small Businesses.
3. The 7<sup>th</sup> annual Tribute to Hispanic Veterans was held on May 17, 2013 and the Governor attended and Justice Carmen Espinosa was our Keynote Speaker. The total number of recognized veterans so far is 142. We need assistance in deciding on a date for the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Tribute to Hispanic Veterans because the African American Affairs Commission already selected May 16, 2014 for their Classic Awards. We are looking at either May 9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The only concern for May 23<sup>rd</sup> is that it is the Holiday weekend.
4. The Bank of America Press Conference is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, June 27, 2013 as the students need to start their internship on Monday, July 15, 2013. A decision need to be made for a location, staff offered the large conference room at LPRAC or the Old Judiciary Room at the State Capitol.
5. Staff reported the incoming year, LPRAC celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and wish to celebrate this milestone.
6. The invoice to Verizon Wireless \$10,000 contribution has been sent out and we continue to make calls to increase sponsorships.
7. Tickets have been printed and 24 have been disbursed for their contributions, 8 to Eastern, 8 to CHFA and 8 to 4C's. We have a total of 127 tickets to sell, and 14 will go to Verizon for their \$10,000 contribution.
8. Commissioner Montalvo suggested we organize a small business showcase where the businesses will pay between \$50 and \$100 to staff a booth showcase their products or services. We can put the funds towards our scholarships for next year.
9. They will be hosting the annual Hispanic Heritage Celebration with the latest U.S. Stamp. We are looking at Monday, 9-16, Tuesday, 9-17 or Friday, 9-20, 2013.
10. Commissioners Montalvo said we should have a Troubadour Contest for the amount of \$25.00 or \$30.00 entrance fee. Musicians can come and compete for the best among them so we can get more fundraising.
11. They need at least 5 members to serve on the subcommittee to review the scholarship applications. They thank Commissioners Castillo, Fernández, Montalvo and Trueworthy and Chairman Díaz, Esq.
12. He also said that Mr. Oyandel and he have been working with the Meriden Health Department for the Gun Locks that will be distributed in August, date will be given later, from 5:00pm to 8:00pm at Hubbard Park in Meriden, CT.

**Motion made to accept the Special Projects Committee report by Commissioner Castro and seconded by Commissioner Montalvo.**

**Motion carries as follows:**

**9 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Borres, Castillo, Castro, Fernández, Montalvo, Rodríguez-Reyes, Torres and Trueworthy**

**3 Absent: Commissioners Cruz, Mañjon and Salorio**

#### **RBA COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Montalvo, Co-Chair of this Committee reported that they had a meeting a week ago and the RBA committee discussed the potential of conducting a population accountability study or a report in RBA format so this will be the first one done in the nation, there is no other report like that. It's a comprehensive study and it's going to take time. Mr. Mark Friedman has said that he will be willing to help out with this RBA, however we will have to send this out as an RFP which means we will have to pay for this report to be done. Several people have contacted her from the small business RBA that they did, and they would like to do a follow-up. She was talking to the Special

Project Committee about doing some kind of showcase as they would like to get information and education about businesses.

**Tape 2A**

**Motion made to accept the RBA report made by Commissioner Rodríguez-Reyes and seconded by Commissioner Castro.**

**Motion carries as follows:**

**9 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Borres, Castillo, Castro, Fernández, Montalvo, Rodríguez-Reyes, Torres and Trueworthy**

**3 Absent: Commissioners Cruz, Mañjon and Salorio**

**AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

**Commissioner Arroyo, Chairman of this Ad-Hoc Committee** said that there is no report.

**OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

**Motion made to authorize the Commission to request FOI from Windham to get number of Latinos suspended made by Commissioner Rodríguez Reyes and seconded by Commissioner Arroyo.**

**Discussion:**

**Commissioner Rodríguez Reyes** suggested that when request is made, to be as specific as possible to let them know that we are concerned about the amount of Latinos that are being suspended.

**Chairman Díaz, Esq.** agreed to draft the FOI request.

**Motion carries as follows:**

**9 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Borres, Castillo, Castro, Fernández, Montalvo, Rodríguez-Reyes, Torres and Trueworthy**

**3 Absent: Commissioners Cruz, Mañjon and Salorio**

**Chairman Díaz, Esq.** spoke about the request from Jill Jenkins.

**Commissioner Castro** suggested two different committees that could be combined she's part of it, Commissioner Arroyo for the part of the voters, civic engagement perhaps and the other one will be under she's not sure of but a combination of two.

**Mr. Oyanadel** suggested talking to the Executive Board first.

**Chairman Díaz, Esq.** said that he will check with Executive Board on Jill Jenkins' request.

**Commissioner Torres** said that they have to talk about the gun locks and LPRAC's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**Chairman Díaz, Esq.** said to send an email to everyone on the next Special Projects Committee meeting and hash it out and do it at a subcommittee level and then present it to the Board.

**Motion to schedule the Press Conference for Bank of America Awards Ceremony on Thursday, June 27, 2013 at Old Judiciary Room at the State Capitol at 10:30 a.m. made by Commissioner Montalvo and seconded by Commissioner Arroyo. Motion carries as follows:**

**9 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Borres, Castillo, Castro, Fernández, Montalvo, Rodríguez-Reyes, Torres and Trueworthy**

**3 Absent: Commissioners Cruz, Mañjon and Salorio**

**Motion to authorize the Special Projects Committee to start on Retreat made by Commissioner Fernández and seconded by Commissioner Castro. Motion carries as follows:**

**9 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Borres, Castillo, Castro, Fernández, Montalvo, Rodríguez-Reyes, Torres and Trueworthy**

**3 Absent: Commissioners Cruz, Mañjon and Salorio**

**Motion to organize a small congratulatory reception made by Commissioner Rodríguez Reyes and seconded by Commissioner Castro. Motion carries as follows:**

**9 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Borres, Castillo, Castro, Fernández, Montalvo, Rodríguez-Reyes, Torres and Trueworthy**

**3 Absent: Commissioners Cruz, Mañjon and Salorio**

**Motion to go and start identifying the needs for the population accountability report in the RBA format and that it is no more than \$20,000 when the study is done made by Commissioner Montalvo and seconded by Commissioner Castillo.**

**Commissioner Arroyo** said that one of the key topics that have been in discussion in this commission has been in education. In the RBA we should try to gear in that particular area.

**Commissioner Trueworthy** likes the population report. She asked if there is a timeline of when this will be completed.

**Motion carries as follows:**

**9 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Borres, Castillo, Castro, Fernández, Montalvo, Rodríguez-Reyes, Torres and Trueworthy**

**3 Absent: Commissioners Cruz, Mañjon and Salorio**

**Motion to bring the next meeting to Danbury on July 17, 2013 made by Commissioner Montalvo and seconded by Commissioner Castillo.**

**Discussion:**

**Commissioner Arroyo** suggested that there be ground rules either mentioned in the beginning of the meeting or staff give our written ground rules stating that they have 3 minutes to speak. Also, make sure they have a sign-up sheet.

**Commissioner Rodríguez-Reyes** suggested that if there are more than 20 people, we can remind them that LPRAC meets every third Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. in the Legislative Office Building.

**Motion carries as follows:**

**8 Yeas: Commissioners Borres, Castillo, Castro, Fernández, Montalvo, Rodríguez-Reyes, Torres and Trueworthy**

**1 Abstention: Commissioner Arroyo**

**3 Absent: Commissioners Cruz, Mañjon and Salorio**

**Motion to draft a letter to send to Justice Department to come also and investigate the education problems that we have in different cities throughout the State of Connecticut such as Windham, Waterbury, Bridgeport, New Britain, New London and others so they can come and investigate the issues that we are having made by Commissioner Montalvo and seconded by Commissioner Arroyo.**

**Tape 2B**

**Motion carries as follows:**

**7 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Castillo, Castro, Montalvo, Rodríguez-Reyes, Torres and Trueworthy**

**1 Nay: Commissioner Fernández**

**1 Abstention: Commissioner Borres**

**3 Absent: Commissioners Cruz, Mañjon and Salorio**

**Commissioner Castro** stated that in New Haven and other cities as well there are a lot of complaints of individuals especially from the Hispanic Community and African American Community in regards to exploitation in wage theft. They are planning to do a workshop and are going to invite Yale University and a lot of groups of people to talk about it and figure out what they will like to do to bring it to the state and she would like to see if there is something that you are interested in or that it is something you heard in the different towns and she wants to invite the Commission as they could be very important to participate here and listen to what are the concerns.

**Commissioner Trueworthy** would like to invite everyone to the New Britain Puerto Rican Festival which is on Saturday, July 6, 2013. She can get more information to everyone. She will email it.

**Chairman Díaz, Esq.** said that he will be asking everyone, tickets for the fundraiser for the Puerto Rican Mayor for the Day – \$45.00 each.

**Motion made to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. by Commissioner Torres and seconded by Commissioner Fernández.**  
**Motion carries as follows:**

**9 Yeas: Commissioners Arroyo, Borres, Castillo, Castro, Fernández, Montalvo, Rodríguez-Reyes, Torres and Trueworthy**

**3 Absent: Commissioners Cruz, Mañjon and Salorio**

Respectfully submitted by,

Yolanda Castillo, Secretary  
LPRAC Board

YC:cjc